

6

# A METHOD

For Determining the  
BEST CLIMATE  
OF THE  
EARTH,

On a Principle to which  
All GEOGRAPHERS and HISTORIANS  
have been hitherto Strangers,

IN A  
MEMORIAL presented to the GOVERNORS  
of the EAST-INDIA Company in HOLLAND,

FOR WHICH  
The AUTHOR was obliged to leave that COUNTRY,

By JOHN PETER PURRY.

Translated from the FRENCH.

---

L O N D O N,  
Printed for M. COOPER at the *Globe* in  
*Pater-noster-row*. MDCCXLIV.  
[Price One Shilling.]

1073.

A

# METHOD

For Determining the

## BEST CLIMATE

OF THE

## EAST INDIES.

On a Plan of which

46

ALL GEOGRAPHERS AND HISTORIANS

have been united to concur.

170

MEMORIAL  
of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY  
to the GOVERNMENT  
of the NETHERLANDS.



The Author was obliged to leave his Country.

By JOHN PETER BURRY.

Translated from the FRENCH.

L O N D O N.

Printed for M. Cooper in the Strand in  
the Year 1701.  
[Price One Shilling.]

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**J**OHAN PETER PURRY the Author of the following Memorial, was born at *Neufchatel* in *Switzerland*, about the Year LXX of the last Century, who, having engaged for some Time in the Wine Trade, and meeting with Misfortunes in it, contracted himself to the *Chamber of Amsterdam* for the *East Indies* in *Batavia* about the beginning of 1713; where, by his Plantations and by being Reader to the Reform'd Church in that City, having pretty well repair'd his Fortune, in the Year 1717, he presented to the Governor General of the *East-India Company*, a Proposal for settling a Colony in the *Land of NIGHTS* not far from the *Isle of Java*; which not having the good Fortune to be approv'd of, he obtain'd Leave to return to *Europe*.

In doubling the *Cape of Good Hope*, he was so taken with the admirable Colonies he found there, that he was more and more confirm'd in the Thought of immortalizing his Name with some Settlement in the 33<sup>d</sup> Degree, either of Northern or Southern Latitude. Arriving at *Amsterdam* in 1718 he presented there in *French* the Memorial we now give the Reader in *English*, to the Lords the Directors of the *Dutch East-India Company*, who determine all Matters relating to it. Neither this Memorial, nor another which accompanied it, were well receiv'd, insomuch that a Friend of his told him privately, *he had best get out of the Way, for that some Things had been observed in both Papers, which ought not to be made Publick*. He took the Advice, and went into *France*; from whence he made a Tour into his own Country: But returning to *Paris* in that fatal Year 1720, he lost in the *Mississippi Company*, what he had got in that of the *East-Indies*. Here his former Scheme reviv'd  
and

and having modell'd it to the *French Settlements*, he presented it to some of the Prime Ministers, who refer'd it to the Royal Academy of Sciences. *Monsr. Fontenelle* return'd this cautious Answer, that *they could not pass a Judgment on a Country which they had never seen, and that therefore it would not be advisable to make expensive Settlements in Places they were unacquainted with.* This was all the Determination that could be got from him. The *Journal des Sçavans* however took notice of the Proposal, and gave a fair Representation of it. Rejected a second Time *Mr. Pury* came into *England*, and printed his Proposal here for establishing a Colony on the *English Coast of America*, Southward enough for his favourite Degree. It was presented to the Duke of *New-Castle* as he was walking with the King at *Kensington* in 1721. But neither here could his Scheme boast of the expected Approbation. I remember however that *Sir Isaac Newton*, to whom I communicated it, agreed in general to the Principles of it, with a Proviso that the Nature of each Country and Soil should be first examin'd before Settlements were attempted.

But about this Time *Georgia* beginning to be talk'd of, *Mr. Purry* at the request of some Merchants, who wanted to know the Condition of that Country, went thither. At his Arrival he first took a general Survey of it, then pass'd into *Switzerland*, and brought from thence enough of his Country-men to establish a small Colony, at the extremity of *Carolina*, just upon the River which divides it from *Georgia*, where he died about ten Years since, in an advanced Age; having first built a Town as a Monument to himself, which still retains the Name of **PURISBURG.**

To my LORDS the  
**DEPUTIES**  
TO THE  
**ASSEMBLY OF SEVENTEEN,**

Representatives of the General Company of  
the *East Indies* of the *Low Countries*.

MY LORDS,

*MY* sincere Attachment to your Interest, during more than five Years I had the Happiness of serving you, prompted me to observe, the first Time I was in Africa, that, for want of Culture and Inhabitants, the Country of the Cafres was no more than a Desert, and that it produc'd very few Things in Comparison of what it might produce, if it was peopled and cultivated as it ought.

I took the Liberty of writing my Thoughts to Monsieur Director Boddens, with whom I had the Honour to have some Interest: But having heard of his Death, and observing afterwards that part of the Land of New Holland, called the Land of Nights, would be still more advantageous than that of the Cafretrie, not only as a Repository of the Wine and Corn necessary for your East Indies, but more especially to strengthen the Commerce you have already established; I immediately resolved, my Lords, to lay before you my

✓B

Infor-

*Informations myself: And I thought at the same time, I should do very ill, if, before I parted, I did not lay open my Design to the Gentlemen of the Counsel of the High Regency of Batavia: For this Reason I remitted to Monsieur Van Swoll the Governour General, the Memorial of the said Country of the Cafres and of the Land of Nights, an Extract of which, hereto subjoined in my Mother Tongue, I have now the Honour to present to you, only with some few Alterations.*

*This, My Lords, is the sole Reason why I returned from the Indies much sooner than I proposed, ready, if my Thoughts shall be agreeable to you, to lay before you what other Things I have to say upon this Head, and at the same Time to answer those Objections which have been already made to me at Batavia, by Monsieur the Governour General, as likewise some others which may be made to me here. At least I shall have the satisfaction, My Lords, of having given this public Testimony of the profound Respect with which I am,*

MY LORDS,

Your most Humble and

Most Obedient Servant,

*Amsterdam, July*

25. 1718.

JOHN PETER PURRY

# METHOD

For Determining

## The BEST CLIMATES OF THE EARTH, *etc.*

S I R,

**I**T would doubtless be a very considerable Advantage to the Company, if they could save those immense Sums which they expend every year as well for foreign Wines, as for Fruits, Oils and Corn brought into this Country; but especially, if they could produce from it out of their own proper Stock, every thing they stand in need of, without the Labour of travelling for it, or the least Expence to purchase it. This Advantage however, considerable as it is in itself, is what our Illustrious Company might very easily obtain,

either in the *Casfrerie* or in the *Land of Nights*, as I shall take the Liberty to represent to your Excellence, by shewing clearly, that either of these Countries is able to produce better Wines than any of those which are imported hither, and that it is an unnecessary Expence to seek for them elsewhere.

To this Purpose, My Lord, I shall chiefly endeavour to prove two thing; First, what Climate produces the best Fruits, and in what Degree we are to look for the most temperate Countries, and best adapted to produce good Wines. Secondly, That our Country of the *Casfres*, as also of the *Land of Nights*, is situated in that Climate; and I shall endeavour at the same Time to give an answer to several Objections, which may be made to me on this Head: After which it will be very easy for your Excellence to judge of the truth of my Proposition.

A Climate is an Extent of Land, contained between two Circles parallel to the Equator, so far distant from one another, that there is the Difference of half an Hour in the Duration of the longest Day under each. Now as under the Equator the Days are always equal to the Nights, viz. twelve Hours each, and under the Polar Circles the longest Day in Summer is twenty four Hours, it follows that from the Equator to the Polar Circles there will be the Difference

ference of twelve Hours in the longest Days of Summer, which is the same as twenty four half Hours: And since every Climate is at the Distance of every half Hour, it follows also, that there must be twenty four Climates, beginning from the Equator and ending at the Polar Circles, as well on the South side of the Globe as on the North side without Distinction.

This, Sir, is the Method by which all modern Geographers divide the World, that they may be able to distinguish with the greatest Exactness the different Situation which one Country bears to another. But this Knowledge alone is not sufficient for my Design: For our present Business is not simply to know the Number of Climates, but the Principal Question is to learn in what Degree we must search for the Countries of the greatest Fertility; a Point, which I know not that any Author has hitherto touch'd upon. They tell us very well, that such a Country is in a cold or temperate Region, that another is hot or dry; but they never determine in what Degree of the Globe we ought to look for the *best* Countries.

Monfieur *Sanfon* the younger would seem to insinuate, in the Description he has given of the World, that this Degree of Fertility which we enquire after, is in the middle of the Temperate Zone. Thus he expresses himself

himself, where he speaks of *France* <sup>a</sup>:  
 “ *France*, saies he, is the finest Country,  
 “ the most delightful and most Powerful  
 “ Kingdom of *Europe*: It is situate about the  
 “ 45<sup>th</sup> Deg. of Latitude, which is the mid-  
 “ dle of the Temperate Zone; all the other  
 “ Parts of *Europe*, above or below this Pa-  
 “ rallel, being more hot or more cold,” etc.  
 But I am bold to say, that Monsieur *Sanfon*  
 is manifestly mistaken on this Head in two  
 Respects.

In the first place, it is certain that *Pro-  
 vence* and *Languedoc* produce the best Fruits  
 of this very Kingdom, and that those  
 which grow in more Southern Countries, as  
 in *Spain* or the Kingdom of *Naples*, excel  
 still more in Goodness: So that the Advan-  
 tage of its Fertility is not owing to its being  
 situate in the forty fifth Degree. In the se-  
 cond place, it is a very bad Proof that *France*  
 is the finest Country and most delightful  
 Kingdom, to say that all the Countries of  
*Europe* are above or below that Parallel,  
 etc. For if this was the Case, it would  
 then follow upon that Footing, that all the  
 other Countries of *Europe* would be equal,  
 since there is not one but has other Countries  
 above or below its Parallel, and which con-  
 sequently are not either hotter or colder:

<sup>a</sup> See the Description of the World by Mess. *Sanfon*,  
 Father and Son, p. 7. printed at *Amsterdam*, A. D. 1700.

And is not this, Sir, a manifest Contradiction?

Monfieur *Moreri* gives us almost the same Account in his *Historical Dictionary*.  
 “ *France*, saies he, is situate within the  
 “ Temperate Zone, for all the other Parts  
 “ of *Europe* above or below that Parallel,  
 “ are more hot or more cold, and it is in  
 “ the middle of the most fertile tract of  
 “ *Europe*. It extends from about forty  
 “ two Degrees of Latitude to about fifty  
 “ one,” etc. But the Defect in this Reason-  
 ing is very easily proved: For if it was true  
 that *France* was in the middle of the most  
 fertile Part of *Europe*, it would follow that  
 the whole Country would be good through-  
 out; whereas it is certain that under the De-  
 gree of fifty one, it is so bad, and in so ill a  
 Climate, that no Wine can be produced  
 from it, or if any, such as ought rather to  
 be called Verjuice than Wine: And that  
 even the Ancients thought those Countries  
 uninhabitable that were in this Degree.

Monfieur *Baudrand* speaks of *France* al-  
 so in the following manner: “ These Ad-  
 “ vantages, saies he, which *France* has re-  
 “ ceived from Nature, joined to the Care  
 “ its Inhabitants take in its Cultivation,  
 “ render it one of the most fruitful and  
 “ most delightful Countries in *Europe*,  
 “ perhaps, every thing considered, none

See Dict. or Hist. T. III. p. 103. Ed. Par. 1712.

"can be found equal to it, *etc.*" But I maintain that this Reasoning is still ill founded, and that it is well known, the Southern Provinces of *Italy* infinitely exceed those of *France*, at least with Respect to the Fertility of the Climate, and the Goodness of the Fruits.

We have moreover since seen in the Publick Accounts, that *Louis XIV.* the late King of *France*, was seized with a desperate Disease of which he died; and that the Physicians not knowing what else to do for him but to fortify his Stomach, prescribed *Alicant* Wine. This was not however, Sir, that there were no good Wines in *France*, but because they could not but allow those of *Spain* were of a better Quality, and more powerful Efficacy, *Alicant* being in the sixth Climate, whereas the best Provinces of *France* are only in the seventh. So true is it, that *France* does not produce the best Fruits nor the best Wines of *Europe*, and that all the Climates of the Earth differ only in Goodness, but in proportion as they are more or less distant from a certain Point.

It is thus, Sir (if I may be allowed to say so) all the Geographers and Historians are mistaken in the Nature of Climates: or, if they sometimes tell us of the Degrees of Heat or Cold which every Country ought to have in relation to one another, they al-  
ways

ways found their Reasoning about it on this false Principle, which is, that the Countries situate in the Centre of the Torrid Zone are the hottest, and that all the other Countries differ in Heat but in Proportion as they are more or less distant from that Centre,

Thus *Monf. Baudrand* expresses himself in regard to *China*: " This great State, says " he, has been favoured by Nature as much " as any other we know of. The northern " Provinces should seem by their Situation " not to be too cold, since they are no farther to the North than the southern " Provinces of *France*: And there is no " Probability that the southern Provinces " of *China* are exposed to too great Heat, " being about 19 or 20 Degrees from the " Line, &c." Now this Reasoning is as ill founded as the foregoing: For so far is it from being true, that the Heats diminish in Proportion as they are distant from the Line, that on the contrary, they gradually encrease to, and even beyond, the 20<sup>th</sup> Degree.

*Monsieur de Merveilleux*, tho' one of the latest Authors on this Subject, and who has put together every thing the most celebrated Geographers have said before him, has nevertheless fallen into the same Error with them in this Particular; For speaking of the *Isles of Sond*, in his *Complete Introduction*

*duction to Universal Geography*, "The Air," says he, is there pretty temperate, considering it is in the Middle of the Torrid Zone, &c." Whereas he should have said, that the Air is pretty temperate in the Isles of *Sond*, because they are in the midst of the Torrid Zone. So true is it, my Lord, that with great Difficulty we recover from an Error which has been fixed by Prejudice for some thousand Years.

For my part, I reckon, my Lord, that to find the best Countries of the Earth, we should look for them in the Middle of the fifth Climate, under the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude. For tho' it is certain it is the Sun alone that gives Spirit to Wines; yet neither the hottest nor the coldest Countries are remarkable for Vines, or even any good Fruits, and it is the Region only of a temperate Heat, which agrees with them. Now as the longest Days are 24 Hours at 66 Deg. 31 Min. if we take the middle of these two Extremes from 1 to 66, which is 33, it follows, that the Degree of Fertility and Temperature of Air, which we search for, must be, as I said, at 33 Deg. of Latitude.

Experience confirms the Truth of what I have now advanced: For I am persuaded, that, as little as we know of the World, it will be allowed without Hesitation, that the Countries of *Barbary*, of *Syria*, and *Chaldea*, *Persia*, of the Great *Mogul*, *China*,  
with

with the Islands of *Candia*, *Cyprus* and *Japan*, contained in the fifth Climate between 30 and 36 Deg. of Latitude, are the best Countries of our old Continent: And that those Parts of all these Countries, which come nearest to the 33<sup>d</sup> Degree, much exceed the others in Fruitfulness; insomuch that the same Observation will hold with respect to *Canaan*, of which *Galilee* was one of its best Provinces.

If to this it is objected, that the Instances I have given, are nothing to the purpose, since all those Countries being under a northern Climate, and our Cape of *Good Hope*, as also the *Land of Nights*, under a southern, there is a great Difference between them:

I answer in the first place, that the Territory of our *Cape* being the most southern Part of the old Continent, and at the same time the only Country of that Continent, which is contained within the fifth Climate on the south Side, it is impossible to instance in any other on that Side.

I say farther, that excepting *South-America*, *New-Zealand*, and our *Cafrerie*, there is not in the southern Hemisphere any Place but the *Land of Nights* with its Isles (among which I comprehend those of *Leeuwin* and *Edelsland*) which is contained in the fifth Climate between 30 and 36 Deg. of Latitude,

After this I add, that no Geographer ever made any Difference between the Climates of the South and North, notwithstanding Astronomers find by their Calculations, that the Sun is more than a Million of Leagues nearer the Earth by the Eccentricity of his Orbit, when he is in his Perigee going thro' the Sign of *Capricorn*, than when he is in his Apogee under the Sign of *Cancer*: that is to say, the Sun at the Beginning of the northern People's Winter, is more than a Million of Leagues nearer the Earth than at the Beginning of Summer.

But, it will be replied, allowing all this, still other Winds blow there, and that may easily contribute something.

I answer, if the Winds contribute to the Diversity of Climates, we must no longer attribute them to the Power of the Sun: And that as different Winds blow under the Torrid Zone from those under the Frigid, we might say, that it is not the Sun which occasions that great Diversity between them, but the Winds, which would still be ridiculous.

This Truth may be confirmed by Examples drawn from the new World: For if we examine *Virginia*, *Carolina*, *Florida*, *New-Mexico*, and *California*, which Countries are partly situate in the fifth northern Climate, we shall find, that all these vast  
Regions

Regions may be reckoned equal to the most excellent Countries, tho' the greatest Part of them are uncultivated, because the Inhabitants of them are ignorant People, and almost as savage as those of our *Casfrerie*.

It is the same in *South-America*. The *Spaniards*, who are Masters of *Chili*, (the Capital of which, the Town of *St. Jago*, is situated between 33 and 34 Deg. of Latitude) say, that they believe there is not a better Country under Heaven, nor more fertile than it: And that they have among other things Sheep so large, that they are able to travail whole Days Journies with a Load of sixty Pounds on their Back. *Paraguay*, which is at the East of *Chili*, is a Country which equally abounds with all the Necessities of Life, and more especially some of its Provinces, as those of *Uruguay*, *la Plata*, *Tucuman*, &c. situate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Climate.

But, it will be farther said, tho' we have been in an Error concerning the Fertility of Climates, and have been hitherto ignorant of the Degrees of Heat and Cold which one Country should have with respect to another, yet this does not prove that the 5<sup>th</sup> Climate is the best, because they do not all produce the same Sort of Fruits universally: For Example; the Torrid Zone produces precious Stones, with Mines of Gold and Silver in Abundance, as also Nutmegs, Cloves,

Cloves, Pepper, Cinnamon, and other Spices, which are imported from the Extremities of the World as valuable Commodities. Will it be said, that Climates which contain so great Riches, do not include good Countries?

I answer, according to this Reasoning, we should say, that *Groenland*, which produces Whales, is a good Country, because we draw from them those great Quantities of Fat and Oyl, so necessary for different Manufactures: Or that *Russia*, *Siberia*, and other Places of the North, are also good Countries, because they produce those fine Skins of Bears, Sable, and other valuable Furs, which bear so great a Price.

But to understand this Matter thoroughly, we should first define what is a good Country. For my Part, I understand by it, a Country that abounds not only in Milk and Honey, but in general with all Sorts of Things that minister to our Pleasure, and enable us to live deliciously; a Country of Plenty and good Cheer, that liberally produces without much Toil, and at an easy Rate, all the Necessaries of Life. This, in a few Words, is, according to my humble Opinion, what we call a good Country.

Now if we compare this Representation with what we might give of the Torrid Zone, it is certain we shall find very little Resemblance in the Draughts; so that it will  
be

be easy for any one to pass a Judgment upon each, provided he will take with him these two Observations. The *first*, that the Torrid Zone produces neither Bread nor Wine, notwithstanding they are the most necessary to the Sustenance of Life; or if it does produce any, it can be only towards the Tropics. The *Second*, that of all the Torrid Zone, the worse Countries are situated in the Center of it; and that all the other Regions which surround it, are fertile but in Proportion as they are more or less distant from that Centre even to the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude.

Indeed, the first Climate containing an Extent of Land from the Equator to 8 Deg. 34 Min. is not only wanting in Bread and Wine, but, as I can affirm from Experience after thirty-eight Months continuing there, the Fruit and Produce of the Garden are worth nothing in Comparison of those in *Europe*, tho' we are above six Degrees from the Line. All the Game there is generally lean throughout the Year, and tasteless: Meat the same: The Cabbages and Asparagus taste of nothing but Water, much like those which have grown under a Tree in a good Climate, or behind some high Wall, without having seen the Sun throughout the whole Year. As for Artichokes and Colliflowers, they don't grow there at all, and cannot even be raised; no more  
can

can many other Things, which it would be too tedious to specify here at length.

I shall be asked, no doubt, whence this proceeds. For my Part, I believe, it is because there is not Heat enough; but it will be added, Is it conceivable, that a Country in the midst of the Torrid Zone, and upon which the Sun darts its Rays perpendicularly from six Months to six Months, should not be hot enough? I answer, The thing is not so difficult to be conceived, as is at first imagined, provided we will only take these three or four Considerations.

*First*, That the Nights there are very long, twelve Hours throughout the Year.

*Secondly*, That all the Revolutions of the Heavens are made by a right Angle with the Horizon; and that consequently the Twilight of the Night and Morning is no more than one Hour twelve Minutes.

*Thirdly*, That the long Absence of the Sun, and the Quantity of Vapours raised by Virtue of its Rays, render the Nights very cold and damp.

*Fourthly*, That the Air being there generally very thick, as well from Vapours as other Exhalations, and so very much chilled by the Lengths of the Nights, the Heat of the Sun cannot well be felt, till very late after he is risen above the Horizon.

To

To which we may add likewise divers other Considerations, which the Philosophy of our Times has discovered in these Matters, but particularly this one: That the Earth turning upon its Axis, and the Air not being able to follow it with the same Rapidity with which that is carried, where its Circle is greatest, a Resistance is occasioned, which forms Whirlwinds and a small easterly Wind, which cools without ceasing, as is generally felt by those who sail under the Line.

By this Means, in my Opinion, we may easily conceive, it is not hot enough in this Country, for this sole Reason, because the Heats there are not of any Continuance; that consequently nothing can come to perfect Maturity, and that every thing suffers by the Chill of the Nights. I can moreover affirm, that the Heat of the Summer, in my own Country, at *Newschatel* in *Switzerland*, is felt more than here. 'Tis for this Reason, all the Fruits are very unwholesome in the first Climate; of which Strangers feel the ill Effects, if they don't eat of them very sparingly. It is the same in all the great Towns in *Europe*, where the Fruits, which are not thorough ripe, occasion diverse Sorts of Maladies, which make terrible Havock among the lower Sort of People. And yet is there any thing more wholesome at any Season of the Year, or

more conformable to Nature, and which agrees better with the Stomach, than good Fruit, well ripe, and from a kind Climate?

The second Climate, which extends from 8 Deg. 34 Min. to 16 Deg. 43 Min. is somewhat better, tho' it produces neither Bread nor Wine. It is, I say, somewhat better, 1. Because the Nights are shorter. 2. Because the Twilight of Night and Morning is longer. 3. Because the Nights are less cold. 4. Because the Sphere being there more oblique, the Heat of the Sun, when it rises, is felt much more sensibly under the second Climate than under the first, as may be observed in the Isle of *Ceylon*, the Country of *Malabar*, *Coromandel*, *Siam*, &c. situated within this Climate, which far exceed, beyond Contradiction, the Islands of *Sumatra*, *Java*, *Borneo*, *Celebes*, and others that lye under the first.

But if the first and second Climate do not produce Bread, it will be said, they bear Rice at least, which is as good and nutritive as that.

I answer, these two Climates do undoubtedly produce Rice in Abundance, and it is the ordinary Food of the People of the Country; but I don't allow that it is so good or so wholesome as Bread. Besides, the Rice does not grow kindly there throughout; there are only some low and marshy  
 Grounds

Grounds that are fit for it; even the most part of our *Molucca* Islands do not produce it universally; and the Inhabitants eat only a kind of Bread which they knead with the Sap of a certain Tree; insomuch, that our Soldiers appear so pale and fall'n away when they return from thence, that they are said to look more like dead Men than living. Supposing all this, my Lord, to be true, I submit it to the Judgment of your Excellence to determine, if it can justly be said, notwithstanding those two Climates produce the best Spices, that they are the best Countries.

The third Climate which extends to 24 Deg. 10 Min. is also better than either of the other two, for the same Reasons which I have alledged above. It begins here to produce Bread in Abundance, and some Wines, though very poor ones. 'Tis from hence we receive most of the Wheat which is brought hither from *Bengal* and *Surat*. But the fourth Climate which includes the *Canary* Islands, extending to 30 Deg. 46 Min. produces good Bread, good Wine, and all Sorts of good Fruit. And when we come to the fifth, which includes our *Cape of good Hope*, as also the *Land of Nights*, and all the finest Countries in the World, 'tis then we find every thing that is good and delicious for the Sustenance of Life.

We have here, my Lord, thousands of credible Witnesses, who can confirm the Truth of this: I am even persuaded, if your Excellence shall take the Pains to consult them upon this Head, every one will agree, that the Heat is greater at *Malabar*, or in the Isle of *Ceylon*, than it is here; and that these Countries are more fertile than ours, because they are in the second Climate, whereas we are only in the first; that there is still more Warmth and Fertility at *Bengal* and *Surat*, because they are under the third Climate, and *Malabar* but in the second; that the Warmth of the Summer, and Fruitfulness of Soil, go on increasing from *Surat* to *Delly*, the Capital City of the Great Mogul, because *Surat* is 21, and *Delly* 30 Deg. of Lat. That the Warmth of Summer is greater at *Gameron* than at *Surat*, because *Gameron* is in the fourth Climate, and *Surat* in the third only: That from *Gameron* the Warmth of Summer and Fruitfulness of Soil increase continually, as we approach to *Hispaban*, the Capital of the Kingdom of *Persia*, because *Gameron* is at the 26<sup>th</sup> Deg. of Lat. and *Hispaban* at the 32<sup>d</sup>. All this is so evident, that no Man can doubt of it.

The Countries then situate under the fifth Climate, being the best, those under the sixth are consequently worse, under the seventh still worse, and so on. So that  
when

when we come to the 24<sup>th</sup> Climate, in which is contained a Part of *Lapland*, *Russia*, and *Syberia*, the Countries there are so dry and barren, that they not only want Bread and Wine, but are not blessed even with a single Tree, and have nothing else but pitiful Brambles.

If on the other Hand we begin from the Polar Circle, and go towards the Equator, we shall meet at first Trees and some bad Fruits; afterwards Corn; next some bad Wines; then pretty good ones; lastly both good Wine and good Fruit; and so on 'till we come to the middle of the fifth Climate.

'Tis true, this Climate contains some bad Places; the Mountains, for Instance, of our *Cafrerie*, which produce nothing at all. But besides that these Mountains surround very rich Vallies, which may vie with the best Countries on the Globe, this is no Proof that it is not the best Climate.

*Arabia Petraea*, situate in this Climate, and wherein the People of *Israel* travelled for forty Years, is likewise so bad a Country, that that People found no Food there, nor even Water, except what God produced by the wonderful Effects of his Almighty Power. But besides that this *Arabia* contained the Country of the *Moabites*, the *Amalekites*, the *Midianites*, and the *Idumeans*, which were all very rich Countries, this

this does not prove but this Climate may be the best.

There was likewise in the Land of *Canaan*, in the Road to *Jerusalem*, a dry and barren Vale, called the *Valley of Mulberry-Trees*, which the *Israelites* were obliged to pass, labouring with Thirst and various other Inconveniencies, every time they went to the Service of God at their solemn Festivals: Could not *Canaan*, for all this, have been a good Country, because it contained this Desert?

All the Countries then of the Earth are good in Proportion, as they more or less distant from the Sun; or it must be said, that the Sun does not contribute at all to the Diversity of Climates, and that all Climates are equal; an Absurdity, which I don't believe any Man of Sense capable of maintaining. I allow, if there was no Sun, then all the Climates of the Earth would be equal, and it would be indifferent whether we were at *Norway* or *Japan*: But as nothing is more certain than that the *Ecliptic* is a Line which runs within the middle of the *Zodiac*, describing the annual Course of the Sun, as also the Path which he makes by his own proper and peculiar Motion, from which he never deviates to one Side or other: And as there never was a Man under the Temperate Zone, unless entirely senseless, who did not manifestly perceive

perceive the Change of Seasons, the different Length of Days and Nights; Heat and Cold, and the several other Things which the obliquity of the Sphere occasions in the World, it necessarily follows, I say, that one of these different Climates must be the best; and that all the others must be good or bad in Proportion only as they are more or less distant from that. Now, if any one shall shew me that the best Countries of the Earth are not contained in this Climate, I submit to Censure, and am ready to own my Error.

The better to illustrate this Maxim, let us suppose, if you please, my Lord, a Person desirous to experience the Truth of it with his own Eyes; and to this Purpose, that setting sail from *Europe*, he proposed to travail over the Old Continent, to the end your Excellence might know, whether what I have advanced, is true, that all the Countries situate in the middle of the fifth Climate, are in reality the best; let us see where he would direct his Course.

In the first Place, he would land at *Tyre* in *Syria*, which is very near 33 Deg. of Latitude. It is a City very famous not only for its Antiquity and its former Grandeur, but also for its having a long time held the Dominion of the Seas. The Fortune of *Alexander the Great*, which spread like a Torrent, met before this Place such a strong Resistance,

Resistance, as obliged him to a Siege of seven or eight Months. But the principal thing I would beg your Excellenc to observe here, is, that it was the best, the most fruitful and delicious Country of all the Land of *Canaan*. This good Country fell to the Lot of the Tribe of *Asber*, as it had been prophesied by the Patriarch *Jacob*, in his last Interview with his \* Children: *Out of Asber, saies he, his Head shall be fat, and he shall yield Royal Dainties.* Which is confirmed likewise by the Predictions of the Destruction of the King of *Tyre*, by reason of his Presumption and his Cruelty, because he dwelt in a pleasant and fruitful Country, the Garden, as it were, of *Eden* †. *Thou hast been*, says God, by the Mouth of the Prophet *Ezekiel*, *thou hast been in Eden, the Garden of God.*

He would next land at *Tunis*, one of the most considerable Cities of *Africa*, or rather at *Sallé*, both of them in *Barbary*, and very near the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude. Now it is certain, *Barbary* is in general, one of the most fruitful Countries in the World, at least under this Degree; and that we meet there not only all Sorts of good Fruit, but that they are much better and finer than those that grow in *Europe*.

After this, he would set sail for our *Ca-*

\* Gen. xlix. 20.

† Ezek. xxviii. 13.

*frerie*, including our *Cape of Good Hope*; where he might find, as well as elsewhere, if we would, all Things requisite for the Delights and Necessities of Life; because the Countries here under the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude are at present occupied by none but Savages,

His next Voyage would be to *China*, to the City of *Nanking*, situate very near the 33<sup>d</sup> Degree; the Province of which, bearing its Name, is the finest, the richest, and the Inhabitants the most civilized of all the Kingdom. The Kings of *China* have always had their Residence at *Nanking*, except that they have of late settled for some time at *Pekin*. But the City of *Nanking* is still, for all that, the finest and largest of the whole Kingdom. The Relations given us of this Country tell us also, that the Province of *Honan*, which is to the East of that of *Nanking*, and consequently in the fifth Climate, produces even the best and most excellent Fruits in the World, as well such as are known in *Europe*, as others; and that they have them in such Plenty, that they give them away almost for nothing.

These, however, are the only Places of the old Continent, where we could settle under that Degree; but it will be said, since *Syria*, *Barbary*, and *China* produce all Sorts of good Fruits, as Pomegranates, Oranges, Citrons, Olives, Figs, &c, and

E

since

since there are none of them at our *Cape*, it is a Sign, that the Lands on the southern Side are of a different Nature.

I answer, If it was so, we should not find them in *Chili*; whereas they are there in great Abundance, and yet the Lands of that Country are not less southward than those of our *Cape*; that we know not in what manner these Sorts of Fruits have been transported from *China*, but we know very well, that after the *Romans* had conquered *Greece*, *Africa*, *Asia Minor*, and *Syria*, they brought Samples of most Sorts of Fruits that are in *Europe*. *Lucullus* was the first, who, after the *Mithridatic War*, brought those fine Cherries from *Cappadocia*, which were so well received in *Italy*; and they were so curious to cultivate them in all the neighbouring Countries, that in less than a hundred Years, they were common along the *Rhine*, in *England*, *Spain*, and all the other Countries which submitted to their Empire. The Apricots came to them from *Epirus*; the Peaches from *Persia*; the first Citrons from *Media*; and Pomegranates were brought from *Carthage*. Pears, and the most delicious Figs they had, came from *Alexandria* and *Greece*; their best Plumbs from *Armenia*, *Syria*, and particularly *Damascus*.

Thus, my Lord, Fruits came to *Rome* in nearly one Century, from Countries newly conquered;

conquered; and the Inclination of the Generals or Consuls for Agriculture procured that Pleasure and Service to their Country, which is in common to all the rest of *Europe* at this Day: From whence, your Excellence may easily conclude, if our Inhabitants of the *Cape* were more industrious than they are, or had as refined a Taste as the *Romans*, they would undoubtedly have found more Sorts of Fruits than they did.

Where Sir *William Temple* speaks of *Damascus*, in his *Essay on the Gardens of Epicurus*, he very justly allows it to be the best Country in the World for Fruits: But he adds, that it is owing not so much to the Climate where *Damascus* stands, as to the Excellence of its Soil. Whereas, I maintain, he would have spoke more properly, if he had said, that it is owing more to the Goodness of the Climate than of the Soil, *Damascus* being very near the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude.

I readily allow, that a suitable Soil, or a Vine cultivated as it ought, will produce better Fruit and better Wine, than other Soils and Trees less cultivated. But this does not hinder, but that the Degree of Heat which this Country shall receive from the Sun by the Advantage of its Situation, may be always the principal Cause of the good Qualities of its Fruits, or its Vines. And if it is not our fifth Climate which

produces the best Kinds, I should be glad to know where the Climate is that does, and to have some Reason assigned, good or bad, for it.

If it is true, it will be said, that all the best Countries in the World are situated under this Degree, we have nothing else to do, but to go to them directly; being sure of finding there the most fruitful Countries of the Earth.

I answer, 'tis very true; and we shall certainly find, both in the old and new World, as also in *New Holland*, the best Countries of the Earth; excepting, however, some small Places we may meet with, which are marshy, mountainous, and Desarts of a dry and barren Soil, in which no Fruits can grow. But it will be replied, if so, why do we not go thither?

I answer, my Lord, again, that this is a Science which is not thoroughly understood, and which has not yet been sufficiently attended to. We have not, at least at present, one Author, as I before observed, who tells us which is the best of all the Climates. They tell us in general, that such a Country is hot or cold, but that does not come up to the Point. I would have them shew all these Things precisely, and say, positively, in such a Degree of the Sphere the Country should be most fruitful, the hottest, or coldest; in the same manner, al-  
most

most, as I would mark upon a Thermometer, the Degrees of Heat or Cold ; and that they should thus point out the Fruitfulness which every Country ought to have with respect to each other. Thus, I don't ask what a Country *is*, whether fruitful or not ; but I would know what it *ought* to be, considering its remote or nearer Distance from the Sun. This is the Knowledge we are in quest of ; and upon which, I wish some more able Person than myself, would kindly communicate his Informations.

I hear, methinks, some say, that it argues great Pride for any one to think he knows more of this than all the rest of the World, and to imagine, that if what I propose was possible to have been determined, it would not have been so, long since.

I answer, that such an one as I ought not, indeed, to presume to understand more than others ; but this does not hinder, but that I ought to do my Duty in shewing what I know, and pointing out the Means, which may contribute any thing to the Advantage of my Masters. The most learned and enlightened do not know all Things ; and those that are less knowing and less enlightened have some Degrees of Knowledge ; and it may easily happen, that what the less observing know, may be among the Number of those Things which the most knowing are ignorant of. Such, for Instance,

stance, was the piece of Service which a poor *Swiss* did to the whole Fleet, which their High Mightinesses had sent into the *South-Sea*, to attempt the Conquest of *Peru*, by shewing them an Herb which cured them of the Scurvy, without which, that Fleet would perhaps have miserably perished. Take the Relation of it in the Historian's Words: \*

“ The 26<sup>th</sup> of *June*, 1624. besides the  
 “ Scurvy, which in general ran through  
 “ the whole Fleet, so many other Illnesses  
 “ unluckily attended those who had  
 “ made the Voyage to the *South-Sea*, that  
 “ there were not able Men enough to arm  
 “ the Sloops: And yet in the mean time,  
 “ we had no hope of finding at *Callao*,  
 “ either Herbage or other Refreshments  
 “ that might cure us, though we were  
 “ obliged to stay there on account of the  
 “ *Maurice* and the *Hope*, which would  
 “ have fallen into the Hands of the Enemy,  
 “ if we had left them. Thus our  
 “ Affairs went very ill; and we should  
 “ not have failed in a little time, to have lost  
 “ a great Number of Men, if it had not  
 “ pleased God that a *Swiss*, ill of the Scurvy,  
 “ should go up to the top of the highest  
 “ Mountain of *Lima*, where there was  
 “ no Likelihood of finding any Verdure.  
 “ He met there with certain kind of Herbs

\* Recueil des Voyages de la Comp. Tom. IV. p. 729.

“ as he was acquainted with, and which,  
 “ upon eating, afforded him great Relief.  
 “ When the Vice-Admiral understood what  
 “ had happened to the *Swiss*, and the  
 “ extraordinary Efficacy of these Herbs, he  
 “ ordered as many of them to be fetched,  
 “ as all the Ship's Crew could eat, which  
 “ he caused to be dress'd with Oil and Vine-  
 “ gar in Sallads, as well as boiled in  
 “ Broth: This Refreshment produced a  
 “ wonderful Effect: The Sick soon reco-  
 “ vered, and they continued to eat these  
 “ Herbs during their Stay at *Callao*, &c.”

When the *Spaniards* made their Discove-  
 ries in *America*, they did not inform them-  
 selves whether the Country was fertile or  
 not: They only sought for Mines of Gold  
 and Silver, and the Places where they found  
 none, they quitted. The *Portuguese* did  
 much the same in the *East-Indies*, making  
 Enquiry only after such Merchandizes as  
 would sell well, and from whence they  
 might make a good Return. The Ships of  
 our Company discovered, likewise, at dif-  
 ferent Times and Places, that great Extent  
 of southern Land, which they believed to  
 be as large and as well-peopled as *America*,  
 and to which they gave the Name of *New-  
 Holland*, which it bears to this Day; but  
 it does not appear that they staid there  
 long, since we know no more at present  
 than the Coasts of that vast Country.

Another

Another Consideration should be regarded, that in searching for Countries of the greatest Degrees of Fertility and Temperature of Air, upon the Supposition that this Science was known, if we did not find the Treasures we hoped for, we should always be sure of being in a Place which would be one of the best Countries in the World. Though, for Instance, *Chili* did not contain all those Mines abounding with Gold and Silver which were found there; is it not, without that Advantage, as much of it at least as is contained in the fifth Climate, one of the best Countries in the World? Who knows what there is in *New-Holland*, and whether that Country does not contain richer Mines of Gold and Silver, than, perhaps, *Chili*, *Peru*, or *Mexico*? And what should hinder, but that all that Coast, called the LAND OF NIGHTS, containing five or six Leagues in Extent, and all of it contained within the fifth Climate, may be equal to *Barbary*, *Chili*, and all the best Countries both of the Old and New Continent? Whence should it be, that all the other Countries of the Earth which are situate under this Climate, should be good, and this alone worth nothing? It is, indeed, my Lord, a thing the most astonishing, that the *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, the *English*, the *French*, and *Dutch*, should have successively expended immense Sums to find out a Passage

sage by the North to go to *China*, tho' hitherto in vain; and that they would neither do, nor hazard any thing, to discover a Country of so advantageous a Situation, the Conquest of which would be so easy, and where they would be sure of finding at least one of the best Countries in the World.

It will be said, perhaps, the Reason is because Storms are there more violent and more frequent; and that the southern Seas cannot be navigated, but with great Difficulty and Danger.

I answer, my Lord, I know not whether that is the Case; but I can assure your Excellence, that in coming hither, we left the Cape of *Good Hope* towards the End of *November*, sailing up to about the fortieth Degree; after which we held on strait to the Islands of *St. Paul*, and of *Amsterdam*, which are not far from *New-Holland*; from whence we directed our Course towards the *Sonda* Islands; and arrived the second of *February* upon our Road, without meeting with one Storm in all our Course worth speaking of. In this Manner we left the *Cape* towards the End of Spring, and were in those Seas even 'till the midst of Summer.

I readily believe, that it is bad Sailing in those Seas in Winter, and that there are often Tempests there, as there are elsewhere,

F

even

even in the best Season of the Year; but it is the same in the *Spanish* and northern Seas. The Ships of *Europe*, for the generality, enter into Harbour as soon as the Winter comes on, and don't set out again 'till Winter is over. Thus, there are Dangers every where; and we must govern ourselves according to Seasons and Places, where we happen to be. This Obstacle, then, which is now alledged, is not a sufficient one.

Suppose, likewise, that it were true, what Sir *William Temple*,\* whom I have already cited, tells us in his *Miscellanies* that he had heard in *Holland*, that, for certain Reasons of Policy, the Company of *East-Indies* had forbid their People, under great Penalties, from trying to make new Discoveries on the Continent. This however would not hinder, but that other Nations might go thither as well as they. So that this Reason is as weak as the former.

But there is a Circumstance, my Lord, which may satisfy you better, and which will, without doubt, surprize your Excellence more than all the rest. Whence is it, that our Country of the *Cafres* being, as it is, the only one of the Old Continent, situate under the best Climate on the southern Side, and consequently the only Place

\* See his Works, Tom. II.

for laying in fresh Provisions for the Ships which go to the *Indies*; whence is it, I say, that for more than a hundred and fifty Years after the *East-Indies* were sailed to, no one was disposed to settle about our *Cape*; and if any went sometimes thither, it was only by Constraint, driven by a Storm, or some other Means? Whence comes it, on the other Hand, that all the Vessels which go to the *Indies*, or return from thence, put in there *now* for fresh Provisions? What is the Reason, that it is at this Day so considerable to the Shipping, and that it was not so then? Is it that the Soil has changed its Nature, or that it was not then the same it is at this Day? No, my Lord, that is not the Case; but it must be freely owned, the Reason is, because they did not know in what Degree the best Countries *should* be situated, and what they found in the Course of things, proceeded only from making different Experiments: Of which I shall lay before you some Proofs.

This *Cape* was discovered by the *Portuguese* in the Year 1498. And our Ships did not begin to sail to the *Indies* 'till 1595\*. In the Year 1601, General G. *Spilberg* came with his little Fleet of three Ships to the Road of our *Cape*, where he

\* See a Collection of the Voyages of the Company, Tom. II. p. 439. *Amst.* 1704.

built 'Tents for the Men that were sick. But that the Savages might not attack or molest them, this General caused two Patere-roes to be brought on Shore and placed before their Tents, and set every Night a good Number of Soldiers for a Guard: So that we may plainly collect from this short Detail, *Europeans* had not at that Time made any Settlement at our Cape.

The Sailors of another Fleet, commanded by Admiral *Wybrandt van Warwyk*, being upon their Return from the *Indies* in 1604, seized with various Distempers and especially with a Bloody-Flux, of which many of them died very miserably, he resolved to put into Harbour at the first Land he could make. In this deplorable Condition they reach'd the Land near the Cape of *Good Hope*, where by trafficking with the Savages they had the Happiness to meet with all those necessary Refreshments which enabled them to undergo the Fatigue of the rest of their Voyage.

In the Year 1608<sup>b</sup> Admiral *Verhoeven* had Orders among his secret Instructions to pass the Line with his Fleet as soon as possible that he might endeavour to double the Cape of *Good Hope*, and in case any Ships should be parted, that they should wait for one another in the Bay of *Verbaguen* or in that of *St. Austin*, which is under the Tro-

<sup>b</sup>Ibid. Tom. IV. p. 10. *Amst.* 1705.

pic of *Capricorn*. From whence we may further collect, that they did not then take in Provision at our *Cape* when they could do it elsewhere.

Another Fleet<sup>a</sup> commanded by *Peter Vandenbroeck*, who return'd from the *Indies* in the Year 1630, cast Anchor in the Road of our *Cape*, but took in only fresh Water there, and could receive but very few other Provisions, because the Savages through Fear had retired up into the Mountains.

So that it was full thirty five Years after the *Dutch* had traded to the *Indies*, and after the Company had experienced very much the want of a sure Harbour in their Voyages, where their Ships might take in fresh Provisions, that our *Cape* was inhabited only by some Savages, in the manner I have just related.

Now if the Science of specifying the Fertility of Climates had not been then unknown, is it to be conceived but that *Vasquez de Gama* the *Portuguese*, who first discovered our *Cape*, would have pronounced at once that this is a Country which should be the best Climate under the Earth, where we ought to make a Settlement, as being the best adapted to afford Provisions for our Ships that shall hereafter sail to the *Indies*? Would he not have said, Let us

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. Tom. IV. p. 471.

find out the most proper Soil for bearing Wine and Olives or Corn, that we may bring Husbandmen afterwards to cultivate it, and may make it a Granary and Treasury of every thing that is necessary. Whereas, if we may judge from Appearances, neither he nor those that followed him so much as dreamt of the Matter.

This will appear, my Lord, still more clearly, provided your Excellence will be pleased to attend to three Particulars. First, what sort of Distempers Men are most subject to at Sea. Secondly, to what such Distempers are owing. Thirdly, what sort of Remedies are most proper to cure them.

In the first Place, I lay it down that the most common Distemper to Sea-faring Men is the Scurvy. It is a Distemper which does not seize at once; but makes it's Appearance by little and little, by Pains in the Arms and Legs, by red or livid Spots, by Tumours, by Blackness and Foulness of Gums, by Rottenness and Decay of the Teeth, by Weariness, Head-achs, Faintings, and diverse other Symptoms which discover themselves in different Parts of the Body; insomuch that Ships are sometimes lost in long Voyages for want of Hands to work them, when the Men are violently seized with this Malady.

In

In the second Place I say that this Distemper does not only proceed from sharp and saline Particles taken in with the Air, but chiefly from decay'd Food, as bisket full of Vermin, Provisions excessively salted or rained, from Stock-Fish and other Victuals of the like kind, from stinking and corrupt Water which the Men are often obliged to drink, and from the want of Neatness which is common on Board a Ship. Now hence it follows that nothing is more necessary in this sort of Voyages than to be able to take in fresh Provision.

In the third Place, I say that many believe this Distemper cannot be cured but at Land, for which Reason the Mariners commonly call it a Land Sickness; but it is probable the Cure is rather owing to the good and fresh Nourishment the Sick meet with there. Others imagine they can have no more sovereign Remedy than the Juice of Oranges and Citron, and that they cannot be cured without it; but it is very difficult to conceive they should recover their Health with what would be more likely to make a Man sick than well: For in general, there is no sort of Fruit, which has so great an Acid as Orange and Citron, especially those which grow in the Torrid Zone and near the Equator: and it is agreed, that the Acidity of Fruits creates a Fever. But, lastly, I am of their Opinion, who think there is no better  
Remedy

than good Bread, good Wine, good Water, good Victuals, and good Herbage, as I have found myself by Experience; and that these are undoubtedly a true Specific against this Distemper provided they are used with Sobriety.

You see then the Disease, its Causes, and its Remedy. To this we may add, that the *Portugueze* were Masters of the Isles of *Cape Verd*, of *St. Thomas*, the *Prince*, the *Ascension*, &c, which they commonly called the Hospitals of the Sea, and that were always forced to fight for it when our Fleets went thither for Refreshments. But what was a greater Inconvenience, our People were sometimes obliged to retire and to proceed on the rest of their Voyage, without being able to get any thing else but Blows: Or if they went to the Isles of *St. Helena*, and some others which were not yet inhabited, they sometimes found nothing at all: And God knows the sad Condition which some of our Ships were in afterwards, when they came near the *Sonda* Islands. After this, my Lord, is it to be imagined that they would have despised settling at our *Cape*, if they had known the worth of it as they now do?

Another very afflicting Circumstance was, that our Ships often missed of the Islands to which they were bound to take in Refreshment, and afterwards they could  
but

but guess where about they were. I shall instance only in a Fleet of Eleven Ships, commanded by Admiral *James L'Ermite*, who designed to put into the Island of *Annobon*, the History of which I shall transcribe Word for Word.

“ The Vice Admiral embarked on Board  
 “ a Yatch, accompanied by two Sloops, to  
 “ find a good anchoring place at the little Is-  
 “ land of *Rolles*, which is near the S. E. of St.  
 “ *Thomas*, and to see if there were any Fruits  
 “ there to cure the Men, among whom the  
 “ Scurvy was every Day encreasing. The  
 “ 23<sup>d</sup> the Vice-Admiral made his Report  
 “ to the Admiral, and let him know that  
 “ there were but few Oranges at *Rolles*,  
 “ because the Season was too far advanced;  
 “ that the Water was 7, 6, 5, and 4. Fathom  
 “ and  $\frac{1}{2}$  deep, with Rocks at bottom, and ve-  
 “ ry bad Anchoring. The Admiral thus per-  
 “ ceiving that it was not proper to harbour in  
 “ this Isle, and moreover that the Wind was  
 “ contrary to go to *Annobon*, ordered the  
 “ Chaplain to make a Discourse extraordi-  
 “ nary, to pray to God for the Recovery of  
 “ the Sick, the Continuance of Health to  
 “ those that were well, and for a successful  
 “ Voyage, since he had not been pleased to  
 “ succeed the Endeavours of the Officers to  
 “ obtain a convenient Place to harbour in.  
 “ The 29<sup>th</sup> we came to the Isle of *Anno-*

Recueil des Voyages de la Comp. tom. iv. 683, 84.

“ *bon*, which was ten Leagues to the West-  
 “ South-West of us. It is remarkable, that  
 “ during the Time we endeavoured to  
 “ reach that Island, and used all the Efforts  
 “ imaginable for that Purpose, we could  
 “ not gain our Point, and had even lost  
 “ all Hope of Success. But when we  
 “ thought no longer of it, and had laid a-  
 “ side the Attempt, and intended to steer  
 “ another Course, we discovered it, and  
 “ acknowledged, doubtless, the particular  
 “ Direction of God’s Providence, who was  
 “ pleased to deliver the Fleet from the  
 “ Evils with which we were threatned  
 “ for want of fresh Provisions. ”

It is then very certain, that a due  
 Regard has not been had to the Diversity  
 of Climates, and that the Science of deter-  
 mining the Fertility—which one Country  
 ought to have above another, has been alto-  
 gether unknown to this Day. The *Land*  
*of Nights* upon the Coasts of the fifth  
 Climate of the Globe, and which we may  
 justly style the Southern *Indies*, is likewise a  
 Proof of this beyond Contradiction; for if  
 the *Europeans* had known as they ought,  
 that it is one of the best Countries on the  
 the Earth, they would undoubtedly have  
 sent Colonies thither preferably to so many  
 other Places in *America*, where they have  
 made Settlements, even to the 50<sup>th</sup> Degree  
 of Latitude.

For how could they tell that that Country was good for nothing, when it was not known, and no-body had been there, according to the Confession even of all the modern Geographers: But supposing some People had been there before, and that they found nothing but uncultivated Lands, savage, poor, and almost naked *Inhabitants*, would this be a Proof that the *Country* was not good? Ought they not rather to attribute the Poverty and Misery of the People to some other Cause? I readily believe there is in this Country, as well, as elsewhere, marshy, desert, and mountainous Places, which are bad; but as this is not general, and as the Coast, taking it from *Edel-standt* to the Isles of *St. Peter* and *St. Francis*, contains 500 or 600 Leagues, and would be above 1200, if we extended it to *New Zealand*, and all situated under the best Climate; and as the Accounts which have been given of it, tell us nothing but to its Advantage; it is highly probable we should not fail finding there excellent Countries, and that all the Difficulty would be in pitching upon those which are best adapted as well for establishing a good Colony, as for the various Benefits that might arise from one.

This Country would be very convenient for our Company, as it is in our Neighbourhood and is not a third so far off as from

hence to our Cape. A Magazine and Granary would be much more suitable to us here, than elsewhere; and if there are any invincible Obstacles to this, I freely own I am unacquainted with them. All I have been able to learn is that the small Hope which has been conceived of finding Treasures in these vast Countries, or the Cruelty of the Inhabitants, of which we have had some terrible Proofs is the Reason why we have made no Settlements upon the Coasts which have been discovered, and have not endeavoured to discover others, which are presumed to be on the South of *Africa* and *America*. But besides that all this is fabulous in my Opinion, the Reasons themselves are very bad; for if some who have attempted to discover the Country have died with Hunger, as some Accounts tell us, or if others have been devoured by Savages who have imprudently ventured without Guard or Provisions, it was certainly their Fault; the Country is not for all that either better or worse, and these Reasons ought not to check us.

On the supposition we could have from the Country of the *Cafres* Bread, Wine, and Fruits, and the Oils which come to us from *Europe*, our Settlement in the *Land of Nights* would be of great Advantage by reason of its Nearness; because if these Products failed us on one side we  
might

might hope at least they might be brought to us from the other.

Besides this, and without reckoning up the different Commodities this Country might produce, which at present we know nothing of, we should be at least very certain that it is one of the best Countries in the World for breeding Silk-worms; and by help of a little Industry in planting whole Forests of Mulberry-trees, as has been done in *Persia* and *China*, the Company might receive in a few Years Ships entirely freighted with Silk, if they pleased, from their own Trees.

Besides, it would be to no Purpose to be possessed of the best Countries of the Earth, if we did not know how or were not willing to cultivate them; and it would be imitating the Conduct of a bad Oeconomist, who should chuse every Hour in the Day to take up Money of his Neighbours, and a hundred other Things, which he might have for nothing from his own Possessions, if he knew how to make a right use of them.

I am however not ignorant, my Lord, that great Expences are required to send People thither, for furnishing out Ships, for building a Fort, for maintaining a good Garrison, and that all these, and divers other Particulars which might be added, cost much Care and Expence, as has been experienced already by the *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, and all the *European* Nations, as also  
by

by our Company in the several Establishments they have made in Countries either lately conquered or discovered. But as nothing great and advantageous can ever be undertaken which is not subject to various Obstacles, especially if Persons of Credit and Authority have an Interest in defeating the Design (as such there would be found in *Europe*) I should be obliged to write a large Volume, were I to answer all the Objections that might be made upon this Head. I will only say then in a word, that the Article of Silk alone would be abundantly sufficient to repay all the Expence, provided this Affair was well regulated: And though the Company were to exact of the Inhabitants only the fifth of the Wine, Corn, Oil, and other Fruits, as well for their right of Sovereignty over the People, as for their Property of the Land, they would receive by this means all they would want for their own Consumption, besides that it would come to them free-cost.

The greatest Difficulty, my Lord, that I meet with here is to find People who understand well the Art of cultivating a Country; for in general it is a Science little understood almost every where, but more particularly in the *Indies*. I have seen, even in *Holland*, great Expences laid out upon a Plantation of Mulberry Trees about the City of *Leyden*, in order to breed Silk-Worms: But the Design

sign was soon perceiv'd to be fruitless, and as ridiculous as for the *English* to attempt Vineyards in their Country, for that neither of them are situated in a Climate proper for these Productions.

When the *Spaniards* discover'd *America*, they soon found that the greatest part of it was a most excellent Country; but that a terrible Depravation of Manners, which extinguished all Modesty and the Laws of Humanity, and which sunk the *Americans* into the Barbarity of eating Man's Flesh, and into the most monstrous Lasciviousness had rendered these People so savage, so ignorant, and slothful, that they took no Care of its Cultivation.

This Science is not as yet much better known in *Asia* or *Africa*: For even the *Chinese*, who pass for the most refin'd and understanding Nation in the World, know nothing of the most simple and easy Branches of it. Father *le Compt* assures us, in his new Description of *China*, that the Country produces very excellent Olives, but that the *Chinese* draw no Oil from them, either because they do not know how to make it, or because they have no occasion for it. He observes also, that the Fruits of *China*, excepting the Pomegranates and Muscadine-Grapes, are in less Perfection than in *Europe*, though they are for the generality of the same kind, because the *Chinese*, as he observes, do not  
make

make use of Inoculation as we do, which renders the Fruit incomparably better than it would otherwise be.

Agriculture is a Thing not so much as known in this Country and others bordering upon it. Every Man contents himself with the Fruits which the Earth naturally produces, without giving himself much concern about any thing more. For besides that the *Indians* go almost naked, if they have but Rice boiled in Water, with a little dried Fish, they always reckon they have good Cheer. Their Kings and their Emperors, whose Happiness consists in having always a great number of Women about them to attend them, indulge themselves in no better Victuals and Clothing than their Subjects. Even the King of *Bantam*, one of the most powerful around us, when he goes to his Palace in the Country, has no other Life-Guard than a Number of Women in his Retinue, one marching before him with a Pike in her Hand, and another behind with Bandeliers and a Fusée, crying out, *The King is coming, let every body stand by.* We may easily judge from this of the rest. But, my Lord, the great Source of the Misery and Ignorance which reigns among these poor People is, that they are under a despotic Government, that all their Lands are the Property of their Sovereign, and that a Subject cannot say he has an Inch of Ground that he



p<sup>®</sup>  
search  
ications

he can call his own. This is the Reason why there is no Industry among them, and that they chuse rather to abandon themselves to a Life of Laziness than work for others.

It is the same in the Empire of the *Great Mogul*, tho' one of the largest States in *Asia*; all the Lands are his, if we may credit *Monf. Bernier*, in the same Manner as the Domains of the Emperor \* extend as far as the Borders of his Empire: For this Reason the People there are very poor, and extremely ignorant, tho' the Country is one of the best in the Universe.

Chaste and prudent *Joseph* pursued heretofore in *Egypt* a Conduct very different from these stupid *Indians*. For having put into the Hands of *Pharaoh* all the Coin, Cattle, Lands, and even Persons of the *Egyptians*, he foresaw clearly that the King his Master would reap no Advantage from keeping them. For which Reason he gave them up their Land to cultivate, and Corn to sow it with, on Condition however that they should give a fifth Part of the Encrease to *Pharaoh* †. “ And it  
 “ shall come to pass, saies he, in the Increase,  
 “ that thou shalt give the fifth Part unto  
 “ *Pharaoh*, and four Parts shall be your own,  
 “ for Seed of the Field, and for your Food,  
 “ and for them of your Households, and for  
 “ Food for your little ones”.

\* See the Voyages of *Monf. Francis Bernier* Doctor of Physic, *Amst.* 1709. † Gen. xlvii. ver. 24.

Nor has our Company followed more the *Indian* Maxim in our Isle of *Java*; for, instead of keeping the Lands they held there, they sold the greatest Part of them, to particular Persons of the Colony. But I am persuaded, if they had followed the Example of the *Patriarch*, and had given up the Lands for nothing, that they might be planted with Rice, Sugar and Indigo, and other Things which the Country would produce, under the same Condition, that at the Time of Harvest, the Company should receive a fifth of the Increase; I am very well assured, I say, that they would have been much greater Gainers than they are.

But, it will be replied, we ought then to remove the great Difficulty of finding good *European* Labourers, sufficiently instructed in Country Affairs, and disposed to settle in our Southern Parts.

Tho' I have already said that this Difficulty appeared to me one of the most considerable, I answer however, that we should not fail finding Labourers, if we took the Pains as we ought to search for them. We should at least be assured, that the greatest Part of those that are in the Company's Service, would stay there, provided they would grant them a Liberty of returning when the Time agreed for was expired. For it is not to be wondered that many People would not be willing to finish their  
Days

Days in the Island of *Java*; when it is situate in a Climate where the Country is worth nothing in respect to that which is situate in the 33<sup>d</sup>. Deg. of Latitude. But it would be somewhat the most amazing, that they should not be content to stay in the *Land of Nights*, because there is no Country in *Europe*, which exceeds it, or which can near equal it for Goodness.

But though we could not find Labourers, we might till the Land by Slaves. The *Romans* cultivated theirs no otherwise. We employ in this Country none but Slaves of each Sex, and have scarce any other Artifts of all Sorts of Professions, as Taylors, Shoemakers, Lock-Smiths, Carpenters, Masons or others. Musicians upon the Hautboy, Violin, and the like Instruments made use of at Marriages, and other Seasons of rejoicing, are only Slaves: Why then could not we accustom them to the pruning of Vines, the lopping of Trees, or other Rural Concerns, if we did but instruct them in it? This Science is not more difficult than those abovementioned; and the Knowledge of each is obtained only by Practice. All the Tricks of the Dancer on the Rope, or of the Juggler with his Box, which surpass almost the Imagination of the Spectators who understand them not, are only the Effects of Habit and constant Exercise. So that I see no Reason why Slaves may not be taught the Science of Agriculture.

But it will be said, allowing all this, it is not agreeable either to the Laws of Justice or Equity to make settlements in the *Land of Nighis* to the prejudice of those, who have been there from Generation to Generation, perhaps for some Thousands of Years, or to turn out a People from their Country who have done us no Harm.

I still reply there would be no Injustice in this. In the first Place, the Earth is God's the sole Proprietor, and we are only the Tenants of it; in the same Manner almost as a Father of a Family, who appoints some certain Mefs for his Servants or Domesticcs, assigns not to every one his proper Portion, but what each takes is his own tho' he had no more right to it than any of the rest, and tho' neither they nor he had assigned him the Power of taking such or such a Part. "The Land shall not be sold for ever: For the Land is mine, saies God to the *Jews*, and ye are Strangers and Sojourners with me." All men therefore having naturally the same Right to the Goods of the World according the Intention of the Creator, who has given to us only in common an usufructuary Right of them, it is not to be conceived, that Possession alone, tho' of some Thousands of Years, should be of Force in Favour of some one to the Prejudice of others, with-

out their Consent, that is, without some express Contract between them: and as long as every one takes what he has occasion for, he no ways prejudices the Rights of others, who may in their Turn avail themselves, one way or other, of the Right of a first Occupant.

In the second Place, I answer, that the Rustic Savages love a Life of Laziness above all Things, and the more ignorant and stupid any People are, the less disposed are they to Labour: whereas a Life of Plenty and Pleasure requires much Care and Pains. Add to this, that a Country inhabited by this sort of lazy Savages is never much peopled. Thus there is Reason to believe, the Establishing a good Colony of *Europeans* would be so far from being any Detriment to the Inhabitants of the *Land of Nigrits*, and from driving them out of their Possessions, that on the contrary it would procure them all Sorts of Advantages, as well from a civilised Life, as from the Arts and Sciences it would bring among them, provided this was done with Mildness, and we looked upon them as poor Creatures, who tho' stupid and ignorant don't cease as well as we to be Members of human Society. For the *Spaniards* as well as *Portuguese*, did not treat the *Indians* nor the *Americans* otherwise than as a sort of Beasts; and, from a Maxim quite opposite to that which I have just recommended, rendered themselves,

by

by their Cruelty and Barbarity, Objects of Horror to all Nations.

You see how, in my Opinion, we might procure the Riches of NEW HOLLAND or the southern *Indies*, without the Apprehension of committing any Injury to the Natives. Such Riches as never create any Remorse, and which we might acquire without the least Blemish to the Character of honest Men and good Christians, are truly worthy of our ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANY, and quite conformable to the End they have always had in View from the Moment they determined to send Ships to the *Indies*.

It is not however my Intention, My Lord, to obtrude my advice or to pretend that my Opinion should prevail beyond the rest of Mankind. I am very sensible every Man is liable to be mistaken, that the Bounds of all our Knowledge are short, and that we often see only one side of a Question, without being able to discover all that is connected with it. No Body, I believe, is exempt from these Imperfections. We see but in Part, we know but in Part. So that it is no wonder if from our imperfect Views we often draw very unjust Consequences; as I have very often learnt by my self from unhappy Experience. But some things however are so clear and palpable, that they leave no Room for doubting, tho' we are ever so much disposed to do

do so. No one, for Instance, doubts but that the Sun shines, and that by the Force of his Beams all Nature is enlivened. No one doubts but that there are hot and cold Countries, situate in a good and bad Climate; that all the Climates differ somewhat from one another, since they all vary, from the Equator to the Polar Circles, half an hour to the longest Days in Summer; and that, for this very Reason only, one of them must be preferable to all the rest. Now, as I have advanced that the fifth is that best, I am ready to retract, as soon as ever I shall be convinced of my Mistake.

For it is not possible, My Lord, when we reflect on the Conduct of the *Europeans* in their Researches into remote Countries, to conceive that they ever knew which was the best Climate. The *French* especially, who pride themselves in having excelled other Nations in the Science of Cosmography, endeavoured to make a settlement in the Northern Provinces of *Canada*, which is one of the meanest Countries of *America*, since all the Commerce the *French* have there, consists in the Skins of wild Beasts, received in exchange from the *Canadians* for Bread, Beans, Plums, and other Things of that sort, which the *French* give them. Can that be said to be a good Country?

It was here however the *French* planted most of their Colonies, and if they have some others in the Southern Parts of *Canada*

*nada*, which they call also *New France*, they are so far from the Sea that it is scarce possible to maintain any Commerce with them. Why then did they not establish themselves in *Florida*, and especially near the River *Missispy*, which is infinitely a better Country, which is near thereabouts, which is in the best Climate, and is at present almost deserted.

When they came into the *East Indies*, they settled in the Island of *Madagascar*, which is almost all of it contained within the Torrid Zone, where they built a Fort, called by them *Fort Dauphin*, and which they abandoned after they found the Country good for nothing; what Thoughts must we entertain of such a Conduct?

They afterwards settled in the Kingdom of *Siam*, which is likewise one of the poor Countries of the Torrid Zone, and which they abandoned again, after they had made so much Noise about it. If they would not fix in the better Part of the Country of the *Cafres*, which is not even yet occupied, 50 or 100 Leagues from our Cape, and about 33 Degrees of Latitude, why did they not go in Quest of a Settlement in the best Countries of *China* or *Japan*, where they would infallibly have found the Riches they wanted? For to say that these are too rich and powerful Empires for them to attack, is to raise up

Phan-

Phantomess only of theImagination. For the same Reason the *Spaniards* should not have ventured to attack *Chili*, *Peru*, *Mexico*, or the other Kingdoms of *America*, whereas Experience hath shewn us, that we ought not to conclude at this Rate: besides, I believe there is not in the World a more cowardly Nation than the *Chinese*, nor more stupid and ignorant than the *Japonese*, as I could shew more particularly, if my Subject led me to it.

Neither is it to be imagined, that our Company settled at the Cape of *Good Hope*, for that Reason only because it was situate in the best Climate; but because after 30 or 40 Years Experience, finding the Country fruitful, that every thing it produced was excellent in its Kind, that the Harbour was good, that it was a very considerable Port for furnishing fresh Provisions for Ships which came to the *Indies* or returned from thence into *Europe*, for all these Reasons they resolved to plant a Colony there, which subsists to this Day. For if the Gentlemen the Directors of the Company had been truly persuaded that in this Climate we should look for the most fruitful Country upon the Earth, it is probable they would not have failed to have sent some Colonies thither, either to the Cape of *St. Lucy*, or towards the Mouth of the River *Infantis*, the one to the *East*, the other to the *West* of our Cape, both of them near the 33<sup>d</sup> Deg. of Latitude.

It is one of the most general Maxims of a good Oeconomist, never to lay out Money, nor to make a Settlement in a bad Country; for that is not so much to gain Riches, as to make a bad Purchase. I am persuaded the Company would even receive more Advantage by abandoning the greatest Part of what they have in the Torrid Zone, than by keeping it, as they have already done by some Places: whereas, to enrich those that are concerned in the Trade there, they can never have too much of such Countries as furnish plentifully and without much Pains, every thing which can be subservient to the Pleasure, the Luxury, and the Vanity of Life.

I know, my Lord, the Company is not desirous of acquiring Lands or of cultivating them, and that the Labourers of the Field have never been within its Views in the *E. Indies*; but as good Management (whether in avoiding Expences or otherwise) is the most certain and clear Profit in Commerce, I am persuaded it is throwing away Money to go in Quest of things so far off, and at so great a Freight, when we could have them for nothing in our own Country: And besides the Settlement, which I propose to be so established either in the Country of the *CAFRES* or in the Land of *NIGHTS*, would be so far from weakening the Commerce of the Company, that it would be a Means, in my Opinion, to strengthen and augment it; provided the Country was peopled as it ought.

But

But, it will be said, it is too great Presumption thus to contradict and criticise what the Gentlemen Directors do, or leave undone.

I answer, in the first Place, my Lord, that as the Gentlemen Directors of the Company are at so prodigious a Distance from the *East-Indies*; as they know nothing of the Country themselves, nor of the Faults which have been committed there, nor of the various Enterprises which might have been undertaken; as they know nothing of all these things but as they are told; so far should they be from taking Offence at the respectful Advice which is given them, especially when it may turn to their Advantage, that they ought on the contrary to look upon the Information of every Servant as a Testimony of his Fidelity and sincere Attachment to the Interest of the Company. To which I may further add, my Lord, for the same Reason, and without Fear of Impropriety, the Exhortation of *St. Paul* to the *Thessalonians*: *Prove all things, saies he, hold fast to that which is Good.*

I answer in the second Place, my Lord, that it is not my Intention, to contradict or criticise what the Gentlemen Directors do, or omit to do: God deliver me from harbouring such a Thought! I know too well the Respect I owe them, and am not less ignorant that it is not the Business of Persons in my Station to attempt the Reformation of the World; but I always thought, that if I  
knew

knew any thing which might be of Service to my Masters, I should do very ill, if I did not inform them of it, and if, to all that others had said to them on this Head, I did not suggest to them what I learnt from natural and acquired Light.

This, my Lord, is the only Aim I have proposed in the Memorial I take the Liberty of presenting to YOUR EXCELLENCE. For which Reason I humbly beg your Permission, to let me sail this Year with the first Fleet, that I may lay before my Masters the Gentlemen Directors by Word of Mouth all these Particulars: Thrice happy, if by endeavouring to Discharge one Branch of my Duty, I shall be able to contribute somewhat, how little soever it be, to the Good of the Publick and the Glory of our ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANY! But more happy still, if by your Excellency's Approbation of this poor Testimony of my Zeal, my Services shall have merited the Honour of your Good-Will, and entitle me to that of subscribing myself, with my earnest Prayers to Heaven for the Preservation of your Highness, and Prosperity of your Government, my Lord,

*Your EXCELLENCY'S*

*Most Humble and*

*Most Obedient Servant*

JOHN PETER PERRY.



*F I N I S.*

